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MARCH 5, 2015

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TWO STORES ON HORIZON

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

A BATTLE of the brands may be about to commence as two new supermarkets, an Iceland and a Waitrose, are set to come to Banbury.

Applications were made to Cherwell District Council on January 26 by Iceland Foods Ltd for renovations to a property in Banbury Retail Park, Lockheed Close.

These include a new shop front with parting entrance doors and signage, and new air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

Iceland's Ken Jones, who made the applications, confirmed the chain's intentions. He said: "Our choice was based on the area and the size. The store will take the new 'warehouse' format, which is larger than a conventional Iceland."

The prospective site will be 10,000 sq ft and have around 60 trollies.

Mr Jones added that issues had arisen over an external trolley park, which he said was not being allowed for Iceland even though other retailers on the site - Pets at Home and Home Bargains - already have trolley parks.

If approved, work is expected to take between eight and ten weeks.

Last Thursday, Waitrose confirmed plans for a new store on surplus land in front of the Mondelēz International factory, Southam Road. A joint application will be submitted by Barwood Capital and Mondelēz in the spring, subject to consultation.

The proposed supermarket will be built on a 29,000 sq ft site with 220 parking spaces.

According to Waitrose, around 200 jobs will be created.

Money released from the sale of the proposed site by Mondelēz to Barwood would generate funds for Mondelēz to invest in its Banbury factory, including upgrading staff facilities and offices. Mondelēz expects to employ 700 people by the end of the year.

Banbury Chamber of Commerce chairman Richard Hunter said: "Broadly speaking it's a positive thing and good in terms of jobs.

"Our only concern is congestion.



An artist's impression of the Waitrose supermarket in Southam Road, Banbury

It's an extremely busy location in terms of traffic at points in the evening and afternoon from the retail park and the M40."

A Waitrose spokesman said it had considered the site next to Spiceball Leisure Centre, but following a detailed review of the plans concluded it was not viable, due to the size of the proposed store, car parking and overall complexity.

He added detailed transport assessments would be undertaken as part of the planning application.

Banbury Civic Society chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith said: "It seems astonishing that Waitrose has decided to walk away from the old Spiceball site in favour of an ugly, out-of-town industrial area, with heavily congested road access.

"The Southam Road site doesn't have even outline planning permission for a supermarket.

"For a Waitrose to be good for Banbury, it needs to be in a location where its customers might also visit the town centre on foot. Waitrose's decision to chance their arm on the Southam Road

instead seems like a bit of a stab in the back all round."

The public are invited to view and discuss plans at public exhibition at Banbury Town Hall tomorrow, from 10am to 1pm. Representatives from Waitrose and the project team will be there to answer questions.

Around 24,000 newsletters containing a freepost feedback form are also being distributed to inform people of the plans.

Comments can be registered at waitrosebanbury.co.uk



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Councillor is given Labour honour

BANBURY: A former councillor has been given a lifetime achievement award by the Labour Party.

George Parish, who was a Banbury Town Council member and worked on the Save the Horton Hospital campaign, was given the award, which was also signed by Labour Party leader Ed Miliband. Current Banbury town councillor Mark Cherry said: "We really miss George on the council and we wish him and his family well for the future."

Leader and mayor of Banbury Town Council Sean Woodcock added: "George was an inspiration to us all in his campaign to save services at the Horton Hospital.

"This award is yet further public recognition of his life-long dedication to serving the people of Banbury."

Hospital hustings

BANBURY: Five prospective parliamentary candidates in the upcoming General Election will attend a Keep the Horton General Hustings meeting next month.

The meeting will be held in St. Mary's Church, Banbury, from 6pm to 9.30pm on Thursday, April 16.

Candidates will specifically debate their parties' plans for the NHS and how they will affect the Horton.

Participants are Sean Woodcock for Labour; Victoria Prentice for Conservative; Ian Middleton for the Green Party; Dickie Bird for UKIP and Roseanne Edwards for the National Health Action Party.

The evening will be chaired by former Banbury High School head teacher Anita Higham OBE.

Fighting for life

BANBURY: A pedestrian is fighting for his life in hospital after being in a collision with a car near Banbury.

The incident happened at about 1.40am on Saturday when a Toyota Avensis was in a collision with the man in White Post Road, Bodicote.

The pedestrian, in his 20s, is currently receiving treatment at the John Radcliffe Hospital for life-threatening injuries.

The road was closed until about 5.10am.



Sian Morris, 34, and Amanda Baxter, 45, from Bloxham. The women plan to throw a Forget-Me-Not summer ball to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society and Stroke Association in June

'Support our charity ball'

TWO Bloxham women, whose mothers are both facing diseases affecting the brain, are organising a charity summer ball.

Amanda Baxter, 45, and Sian Morris, 34, hope to raise at least £6,000 from their Forget-Me-Not Ball in June in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and the Stroke Association.

Company director Amanda has felt first hand the pain Alzheimer's, the most common type of dementia,

can inflict on family members. Her mother Peggy Craven, 85, was diagnosed with the disease in December 2013. She recently moved with husband Connell, also 85, to an assisted living flat in Banbury to be near their daughter.

Accountant Sian is helping to care for her 64-year-old mother Lynwen Griffiths, who suffered a stroke in December 2013.

Mrs Griffiths spent six weeks at the Horton Hospital in Banbury

before being transferred to the Churchill Hospital-based Oxford Centre for Enablement. She finally returned to her home in Bodicote last year but remains severely disabled and using a wheelchair.

Sponsorship from Banbury businesses is being sought for the ball on Saturday, June 27, at Broughton Grange, Wykham Lane. To get involved, search Forget-Me-Not Ball on Facebook or email forgetmenotball2015@gmail.com

Charity hosts health and vitality show

PHYSICAL and emotional health will be in the spotlight on Saturday at an event held by the Banbury Young Homeless Project.

The Banbury Health and Vitality Show on March 7 from 10am to 4pm at New Futures Centre, Woodgreen Avenue.

Visitors can learn about healthy eating and weight management, pick up free samples and enjoy treatments from Thai massage to crystal healing.

Healthy lunches will be provided by BYHP's On A Roll cafe. Adult entry costs £2 and all proceeds go to the charity.

BYHP supports young people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless, inappropriately housed or at risk of becoming homeless.

Help to count wildflowers

VOLUNTEERS are wanted to count wildflowers in Oxfordshire.

The survey is for the National Plant Monitoring Scheme, which was launched this week.

The project, which will enable scientists to take an annual stock take of the UK's wild plants for the first time, needs 2,000 volunteers to help.

Volunteers will be asked to record species in a 1km area from a list particular to their area.

Go to npms.org.uk

Volunteer's extra reward

A BOXING club founder in King's Sutton has received a Halifax Giving Extra Award in recognition of his hard work.

Tom Malcher is head coach at the not-for-profit Banbury Boxing Club in Broad Street, which he co-founded in 2012.

He volunteers in the evenings to coach young people and take

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

them around the country for matches or sparing.

After being nominated by fellow founder Mark Cooper, he was recognised by the local panel of the Halifax Giving Extra Awards.

He said: "It is a real surprise. I didn't believe the letter telling me I had won."

"We have put a huge amount of time and hard work into

transforming the club and are proud to be able to offer better boxing facilities for Banbury."

Last summer Tom worked for more than 400 unpaid hours during July and August, coordinating and implementing the renovation of a junk shop into a new gym for the club.

He joins 66 other local award winners across the UK, who will each receive £300 in bonus bond vouchers. The national winner, to be announced later this month, will receive £2,500 in bonus bond vouchers and a

£2,500 donation to a good cause.

Halifax community ambassador Anita Paymaster said: "Halifax received thousands of nominations worldwide, so we're delighted that Tom has won. The work he has done for the community is outstanding and truly deserves the recognition."

The Banbury Boxing club welcomes recreational and competitive boxers of all fitness levels aged 8 to 40. Call 07809 410 692 or visit banburyboxingclub.co.uk

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Art classes for leaders

YOUNG leaders from an arts programme rolled up their sleeves at The Mill Arts Centre for a painting session.

Members of a cohort of emerging artists, aged 18-25, are taking part in this year's Kick Arts programme, run by the OYAP Trust.

Kick Arts inspires learning in young people and children struggling with or out of mainstream education.

Musicians, filmmakers, slam poets and visual artists pass on their knowledge to participants, improving confidence and self-esteem.

At the end of the programme,



Jess Stephenson and Imogen Morris individuals achieve the Arts Award qualification at Entry Level 3, QCF levels 1 and 2.

Jess Stephenson, 24, a trained advisor in the Arts Award, said: "We do one-to-one work and group work. Each child requires attention."

"It's challenging but rewarding."

Singer triumphs in show of talent

Songwriter, 17, wows judges in front of a sold-out audience to claim the title

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

A BUDDING singer-songwriter was announced the winner of Banbury's Got Talent 2015 last weekend.

Seventeen-year-old Jamie Felton, from Ardley, stole the show at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, with his rendition of Olly Murs' *Troublemaker*.

For this year's contest, 36 entrants were whittled down to 11 finalists including dancers, singers and musicians. They performed on Sunday to a sold-out audience. Judges included Sheridan Coldstream, who has prepared students for TV shows such as *The Voice* and *X Factor*, Banbury Sound morning presenter Kirsty Leahy and jazz singer Fiona Paige.

Jamie said: "I was really nervous. There were more people than I'm used to."

He has played guitar for almost nine years and said his chief musical inspirations were Green Day, the Beatles, Bryan Adams and Queen.

He said: "I didn't audition this year as I got to the final last year.



Banbury's Got Talent 2015 winner Jamie Felton

I've definitely improved since then – the judges said my voice has got stronger."

Jamie previously won both the Talent Oxford and Aylesbury's Got Talent competitions in 2010.

He has also recorded two original CDs and teaches guitar – and ukulele – to people in Ardley. Jamie hopes to begin a songwriting course at Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts or the Guildford Academy of Contemporary

Music in September. He said: "I want to understand the business side of things. You've got to know how to promote yourself."

Following his triumph, Jamie will have his own show staged at The Mill.

Runners-up on the night were vocal duo Marley & D and, in joint third place, singer Madison Desborough and vocal guitarist George Rose.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Pupils to Front

OXON: Pupils from Chenderit School, in Middleton Cheney, and North Oxfordshire Academy are to soak up First World War history on a trip to the Western Front.

Government-funded initiative First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme is running the trip as part of a nationwide scheme for state funded secondary schools.

The trip will see two pupils and one teacher from each school embark on a tour of France and Belgium. Included in the itinerary will be the Last Post in Ypres and Thiepval Memorial.

Insulation funds

CHERWELL: Free home insulation is available for residents to help improve energy efficiency and reduce bills.

Households across the district can apply for funding from a partnership between Cherwell District Council and Green Homes Together, which supports local authorities to provide energy savings.

Properties will be surveyed and the amount of funding will depend on potential energy savings for households.

The funding, available until the end of March, will come from the national Energy Companies Obligation, in which large suppliers are required to help with energy efficiency.

Grants will be given for up to 100 per cent of installation costs for loft or cavity wall insulation.

For information on eligibility or to apply, see greenhomes-together.org.uk

Facelift for TV's Wolf Hall after its screen success

Refurb for castle ahead of an expected rise in visitors after the popularity of TV series

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

A CASTLE recently used as a set for the BBC's *Wolf Hall* will undergo the first improvements to its kitchens and tea room since 1975.

Plans have been submitted for Broughton Castle that will see the kitchen area extended, improved drainage and refurbished toilets in the car park.

Custodian and heir Martin Fiennes said: "The original plan was rather more than we're actually going to end up doing. But it's overdue. It will make a few people more comfortable – there will be heating in the toilets for a start."

Mr Fiennes is the son of Nathaniel Fiennes, whose official title is 21st Baron Saye and Sele. Ownership of the castle has remained in the family since 1447.

The building itself, a fortified manor house, has a medieval core built in 1300 and was extended in 1550, making much of it Tudor in origin.

The initial plan was also to update ticketing facilities and disabled access, but these were abandoned for

cost reasons.

Mr Fiennes said the project would cost "a lot" but he hoped the work would last the building for another 30 or 40 years.

He said: "We had 14,000 visitors last year, about 20 per cent from overseas.

"But we hope we'll have a little more this year. I think the *Wolf Hall* publicity will bring an extra thousand."

The BBC adaptation of Hilary Mantel's bestselling historical novel was partly filmed at Broughton Castle in June and July 2014. Episode three, which aired on February 4, includes three parts of the castle in the first three scenes: the gatehouse, the great hall and the Oak Room.

Over the years the castle has frequently appeared onscreen, playing host to crews from *Shakespeare in Love*, *Jane Eyre* and *Antiques Roadshow*.

On its attraction as a set, Mr Fiennes said: "It's a beautiful and unspoilt Tudor manor house. And it's only an hour and a quarter from London.

"Of course there's disruption, and you have to make sure everything's looked after and people are taking care. But it's great having film crews. I can be as much of a fanboy as anyone else."

The stables, now housing the tea room, were partly built in about 1400, probably as a lodging house.

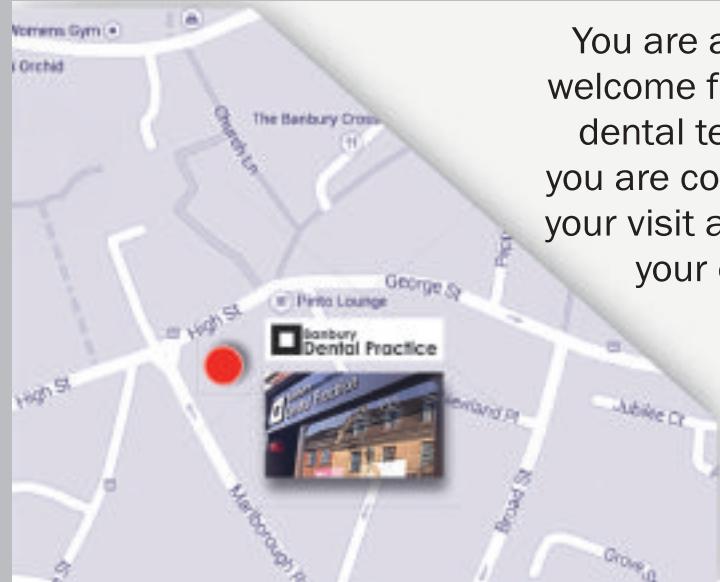


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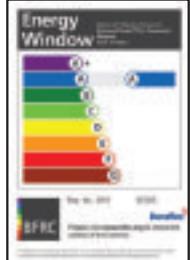


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Save water

CHERWELL: Free water-saving gadgets will be handed out to residents in the district in a bid to help them cut bills.

The district council has teamed up with Thames Water to give residents devices such as shower timers, shower heads or save-a-flush bags, all of which help reduce the amount of water used.

Cherwell District Council's clean and green chief, Tony Ilott, said: "When it comes to saving money, every little helps and so in partnership with Thames Water we are offering residents the chance to do just that."

"We would encourage as many residents as possible to do their bit for the environment – and their purses – by ordering these free devices." Devices can be ordered online and sent directly to be installed by homeowners.

For how to order see, thameswater.co.uk/savewater.

Campaign move

OXON: The Campaign to Protect Rural England Oxfordshire branch has moved to Watlington.

The address of the new office is 20 High Street, Watlington, OX49 5PY and the new landline is 01491 612079.

The group, directed by Helen Marshall, campaigns to protect green and undeveloped areas in the county from development.

Recent battles include a fight against plans for thousands of new homes in Vale of White Horse, and opposition to new solar farms across the county.

Tails wag as parcel firm delivers a charity cheque

Gift of £20k will allow Dogs for the Disabled to improve training facilities and publicity

Hannah Somerville
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A CHARITY providing assistance dogs for people with disabilities has received a grant of about £20,000 to improve facilities.

A UPS Foundation van pulled up outside Dogs for the Disabled's headquarters in Blacklocks Hill, Banbury, and charity staff and their four-legged companions were presented with a \$32,000 cheque.

Charity chief executive Peter Goring said: "We're hugely grateful to the UPS Foundation for this wonderful grant."

"This will provide much improved training facilities for our staff, dogs and clients, and will also increase awareness of the charity's work."

The UPS Foundation is the charitable arm of the United Parcel Service and funds community-strengthening projects around the world.

It has previously provided volunteers for Dogs for Disabled and the money will help fund redevelopment of the site's training hall.

Improvements will include a fully-furnished canteen area and simu-

lated 'home area' with a bedroom, lounge and kitchen, as well as additional space for client workshops.

Dogs for the Disabled's Sarah Watson said: "When we arrived in 2001 the training hall was an existing building and it was fairly basic. Now it's at the point where it needs some serious TLC."

"In the new cafe area people can get a cup of coffee and learn how to get their dogs to sit and relax by their side. It's a really important part of the dog's training and socialisation."

More than 30 families have benefited from Dogs for the Disabled's services across Oxfordshire. This includes fully-trained assistance dogs helping people with physical disabilities, and autism assistance dogs.

More have attended 'PAWS' workshops to explore the benefits of a dog to autistic children.

In the mock home they learn to fetch remote controls, open doors, remove clothes from a washing machine and help owners get dressed, as well as other tasks.

Trainer Clare Mehmet said: "It's really rewarding knowing that in just a few months the dogs I'm helping train will make a life-changing difference."

There are 30 to 35 dogs at the training facility at any time. This year up to 55 will complete training and the improvements will better equip the charity to meet its target of 98 dogs by 2018. Visit dogsforthedisabled.org



A UPS van arrived at Dogs for the Disabled in Banbury with a cheque

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Super half-term for holiday hubs

THE first February school holiday hubs have been hailed a success by Cherwell District Council with more than 200 bookings.

During half-term youngsters took part in council-run activities such as arts, games, dance and sport.

The council organised the February event as an expansion to its current holiday hubs programme to include half terms.

The next holiday hub run by the council will take place week days during the Easter holidays starting on March 30.

Cherwell District Council's deputy leader George Reynolds said: "In the past 12 months our hubs programme has expanded from just providing activities in summer and Easter to incorporating all of the half-term breaks and this is due to demand from parents and children."



Cherwell's George Reynolds

Patients forum starts

A PATIENT forum has been set up by the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust. Professionals and the public have been invited to its first Oxfordshire patient forum on Tuesday, March 17, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, at its HQ in Talisman Road, Bicester.

It said: "The patient forum gives the opportunity for health professionals, ambulance service users and local people who want to channel their passion for healthcare to address issues."

MP paid £191k last year to rank in top 10 earners

Sir Tony Baldry is an active barrister and a director of a number of companies

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

BANBURY MP Sir Tony Baldry was among the 10 MPs who were listed as having the highest earnings from outside employment interests last year, official data has shown.

According to the latest figures from the House of Commons Register of Members' Financial Interests, the Conservative earned a total of £190,903 in 2014.

That figure placed him ninth among the top 10 of the highest earning MPs in the Commons.

Sir Tony is a practising barrister and also holds a number of company directorships.

Between February 4, 2014 and February 3 this year he registered £39,996 earned from work advising Woburn Energy plc.

And for his role as chairman of Kazakhstan Kagazy Plc, an industrial holding, he earned

£120,000 over the same period. According to the Commons register, as associate director at Wener Capital LLP he received director's fees of £5,000 in April 2014, as well as an advance payment of director's fees from April to July 2014 of £20,000.

As a non-executive director of GNET Group plc, an e-commerce company in China, he received director's fees of £4,239 in December and £10,000 last month.

Sir Tony told the *Banbury Cake*: "When I was first elected as Member of Parliament for Banbury in 1983 I was a practising barrister and a company director.

"With the exception of the eight years in which I was a Government minister in addition to being a Member of Parliament, I have continued to be a practising barrister and a company director.

"I also made it very clear on my election address at the last General Election that I had outside employment interests and if I were to be re-elected as the Member of Parliament for Banbury I intended to continue with those outside interests."



Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry



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SOMETHING TO REMEMBER Smart, spontaneous and honest Witney female, 36, 5'10", slim build, would like to meet a man with a good sense of humour who is caring and affectionate for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180797 or send a text to 80360

THE SPECIAL ONE Smart and sincere Bedminster female, 30, to enjoy all the quiet things in life, now searching for a genuine, faithful and sincere man, to share friendship, company and loving times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172147 or send a text to 80360

CASTLES IN THE AIR Curvy, down-to-earth Buckingham female, 47, 5'4", own home and car, enjoys days out, football and the quiet things in life, seeking a relaxed and friendly male to share true love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165815

MAN TO REACH Curvy, friendly and loving Bedford female, 47, 5'3", hard working, enjoys days out and cosy times, would like to meet a tidy and fun-loving man, for caring and happy times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171327

COULD IT BE MAGIC? Spiritual and genuine Didcot woman, 48, attractive, fun, with grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walks and reading, seeking a caring and kind male to share for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 223828

QUALITY OF LIFE Sunny, loving and loyal Swindon girl, 50, 5'3", average build, likes dining out, walks and travel, looking to find a tactful and endearing man, for love and an honest future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

THE PERFECT DAY Bright and caring Swindon female, 49, non smoker, enjoys film, theatre, sport and the gym, searching for a genuine man, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180762 or send a text to 80360

SEEING A CONNECTION Kind-hearted, caring, 30 year old Abingdon-on-Thames female, would like to meet a male, for fun, company and to get to know each other. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186892 or send a text to 80360

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE Kind, 51 year old Milton Keynes female, 5'3", blue eyes, blonde hair, like going out for meals, cosy drinks, walking and cosy nights. Seeks a sincere, honest male to get to know each other. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174590 or send a text to 80360

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Genuine, friendly and honest, 51 year old Hemel Hempstead female, 5'2", Scorpio star sign, like gardening and car washing. Would like to meet a male, for company, friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187401 or send a text to 80360

COME INTO FOCUS Smart and honest Milton Keynes female, 51, 5'3", enjoys keep fit and all the normal things, simply searching for a decent, romantic male to share loving times and future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172427

TIME TO LIVE AGAIN Sweet, attractive, honest and truthful Aylesbury girl, 52, 5'6", with plenty of interests in life, searching for an energetic, trustworthy male, for friendship, love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155653

YUMMY MUMMY Witney female, 52, would like to meet a yummy man, for romance, love and a long-term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186111 or send a text to 80360

SOMETHING TO CHERISH Bright, honest and caring, 52 year old, 5'2", enjoys zumba, swimming and cycling, now searching for a happy and sociable man, to share happy times and a loving future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186277 and send a text to 80360

HOPE THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE Caring, honest and loving, 53 year old Milton Keynes female, would like to meet a male for friendship, going out for meals and possibly more, who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180004 or send a text to 80360

THE RIGHT STUFF Sincere, slim Bedford woman, 54, 5'3", blonde, enjoys eating out, walks, plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a genuine and considerate male, for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173512 or send a text to 80360

OPEN TO OFFERS Reflective, timid and kind Aylesbury female, 55, 5'10", average build and a non-smoker, now searching for a tolerant, warm and sincere gent, to share friendship and the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186178 or send a text to 80360

ANYONE FOR LOVE? Happy and fun-loving Luton female, 56, widower enjoys holidays, travel, cooking and more, would like to meet a male, for fun times, evenings out and dining with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167294

LOVE AND FAITHFUL 56 year old Cheltenham female, 56, 5'1", eyes of steel, to find her perfect special, non-smoking man, for nights out. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161

IN PERFECT HARMONY Independent, kind, caring, honest and loyal, 64 year old Milton Keynes female, enjoy travelling, the arts, cooking and eating out. Seeking a loving, caring male for friendship, romance and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 181326 or send a text to 80360

SOMETHING IN THE AIR Perceptive, polite and romantic Bampton woman, 57, loves family time, socialising and places of interest, would like to find an energetic, consistent man, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144

NOT JUST ANYONE Emotional, aware and decent High Wycombe girl, 57, just looking to meet an affable, tender male, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544

FUTURE HAPPINESS Genuine, kind 64 year old Pewsey female, 57", like music, dancing, socialising with friends and cosy nights in. Would like to meet a kind, honest man to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179068

MY HAPPY ENDING Down-to-earth Aylesbury female, 57, non-smoker, enjoys holidays, days out, socialising and more, searching for a similar man, to share interests, friendship and happy times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177528 or send a text to 80360

SINCERE FRIENDSHIP Friendly and cuddly, 58 year old Buckingham female, widow, enjoys walks, meals out and drinks out. Would like to meet a sincere male for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177102 or send a text to 80360

ARE YOU MY MATCH? Kind, 59 year old Abingdon female, 57", red hair, medium build, loves gardening, DIY, fun cosy nights in and cats. Seeks a kind male, with a good sense of humour for a romantic relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173744 or send a text to 80360

THE GOLDEN RULE Fun, open and active Bedford male, 65, enjoys cosy times, social drinks and music, would like to meet a kind, thoughtful and happy male, for friendship and great times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186564

CHASING DREAMS Quirite, bold and easygoing Bletchley male, 65, 5'9", loves the outdoors, seeks in life, now would like to find a nice, caring chap, of similar age, for nice company and hopefully a future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179210

THIS ENCHANTED EVENING Understanding and caring Oxford male, 65, 5'9", loves the outdoors, seeks in life, now would like to find a nice, caring chap, of similar age, for nice company and hopefully a future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179210

MAYBE ROMANCE Blonde Scarlett seeks her Rett, slim, attractive, active, professional, Thame lady, 65, loves dancing, seeks a kind, caring, friendly and outgoing, companionship and who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899

A BETTER TOMORROW Loving, caring and sincere, 66 year old Aylesbury female, would like to meet a gentleman for companionship and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179554 or send a text to 80360

JUST GOOD FRIENDS Sincere, genuine and kind-hearted, 66 year old Luton female, would like to meet a non-smoking, gentle, humorous male, with old fashioned values. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176427 or send a text to 80360

IT'S TIME WE MET Cuddly, honest, witty Hemel Hempstead female, 66, 5'3", Scorpio star sign, like gardening and theatre, would like to meet a male to share the good things in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 183126 or send a text to 80360

FIRST DATE Energetic, straightforward and kind-hearted Swindon lady, 67, like walking, cinema, TV, films and cosy nights in. Wants to meet a male, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155853 or send a text to 80360

A FRIEND FIRST? Down-to-earth, bubbly, kind and caring Oxfordshire female, 67, 5'2", would like to meet a male, 51"+, who is sporty, kind, caring, romantic, loyal, decent and a great sense of humour. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178761

SEEKING LOVE Smart, youthful female, 67, 5'2", likes walking, boot sales and cycling, would like to meet a male, 51"+, who is sporty, kind, caring, romantic, loyal, decent and a great sense of humour. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180802 or send a text to 80360

GETTING GEARED UP Fun, friendly and petite Swindon female, 67, 5ft, brown hair, enjoys home cooking, enjoys walking, likes shopping and cycling, now searching for a special, active man, to share and enjoy quality times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178821 or send a text to 80360

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 73, just looking to meet a friendly, likeable male, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

CHEEK TO CHEEK Hard-working and happy Oxford male, 52, 5'7", own home, likes socialising, cooking, nights in and good company, now searching for a nice, friendly, likeable male, for friendship, love and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

TO THE FUTURE Loyal, honest and sincere North Oxfordshire male, 51, 5'7", medium build, enjoys music, motorsport, classic cars and more, searching for a charming, feminine lady, for future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180701

NEED THAT SPECIAL PERSON Intelligent, attractive and well-dressed Devizes female, 61, widow, enjoys keeping active and swimming, looking for a kind, intelligent, active man, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151752 or send a text to 80360

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174011

TIME TO START AGAIN Warm and attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", curvy build, likes cooking, evenings out and all the nice things, now seeking a friendly and faithful man, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167290

LOVE FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 62, 5'6", GSOH, non-smoker, enjoys a good social life, likes music, films and reading, searching for that special, non-smoking man, for nights out. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161

CLOSER THAN CLOSE Tall, fit, Luton-based West Indian male, 44, solvent and straight-forward, loves most things in life, would like to meet a sincere and loyal female, with nice personality, to love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173019 or send a text to 80360

MAKE A REAL MATCH Well-groomed, romantic and reliable Hemel Hempstead man, 42, 5'10", likes keeping fit at the gym and cosy evenings in, seeking a tidy, sincere woman, for happiness, love and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154001 or send a text to 80360

QUEEN OF THE ROADS Caring, kind-hearted, 42 year old Oxford male, 44, 5'10", non-smoker, likes football, music, drama and theatre, would like to meet an active and loving woman, to share life's memories with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178197

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 54, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187581 or send a text to 80360

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury male, 57, would like to date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154001 or send a text to 80360

JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Loyal, supportive, reliable, trustworthy, 58 year old Evesham male, 69, would like a date with an old-fashioned, intuitive lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150131

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY Loyal, genuine, solvent Oxfordshire male, 68, 5'9", own home and car, retired professional, loves music, the outdoors and travel, seeking an attractive, feminine lady, to share life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Kind-hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 69, would like a date with a nice, good-looking, friendly lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285

START OF A NEW JOURNEY Cheerful, slim, fit Banbury male, 71, ex forces, likes sports, animals and cooking, in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901

SECURE THE FUTURE Youthful, faithful, liberal Oxford-based Teesside gent, 74, enjoys day trips and more, now looking for a sweet, sensible and a working man, to go on a date and times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159243

DANCE INTO TOMORROW Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 80, non-smoker, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

BY MOONLIGHT Upbeat and faithful Burford chap, 60, widowed, enjoys walks, the countryside, pub and travel, loves dancing, socialising and more, now looking for a similar woman, for true romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER Creative, instinctive and sympathetic Wallingford man, 61, 5'10", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, the country and 60s music, seeking a genuine, loving lady, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160696 or send a text to 80360

STARTING OFF RIGHT Slim, happy, blue-eyed Banbury man, 61, 5'6", likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, the country and 60s music, seeking a genuine, loving lady, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360

A NEW DIRECTION Kind, warm-hearted Swindon male, 61, 5'6", blue-grey eyes, slim, many interests in life, now seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, to share happy times, fun and whatever life offers. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

STARTING TOGETHER Fit, active Oxford-based Latin male, 63, loves exploring new places and the fun things in life, looking for a special and honest woman, to share happy times, fun and whatever life offers. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 181565 or send a text to 80360

SEEKING INSPIRATION Warm-hearted, active, gentle and outgoing Luton man, 65, with many interests in life, now seeking for a shy, sensitive female, for fun times, friendship and plenty of happy times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153914 or send a text to 80360

LOADS OF LOVE TO GIVE Honest, 50 year old Didcot male, TV, blond, would like to meet a mature, active man for fun and romance, red wine, cosy nights in. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 181165 or send a text to 80360

THAT'S THE TICKET Easygoing and friendly Didcot male, 68, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times and socialising, searching for a friendly, active chap, for company, nights out, conversation and lots more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151800

ENJOY LIFE'S JOURNEY Caring, honest and friendly Abingdon male, 68, semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for a similar male, to share good times, friendship and the fun things in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 71, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567

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Homes get nod – and a hall into the bargain

PLANS for 33 homes and a village hall in Great Bourton have been approved by councillors despite the site not being listed in Cherwell's local plan.

Cherwell District Council has approved the village development planned for land to the west of Garners House, in Main Street, Great Bourton.

The decision was made in light of backing from The Bourtons Parish Council and Cherwell's housing targets.

Cherwell lead member for planning Michael Gibbard said: "Members approved the delivery of the new homes in this rural location.

Particularly as the parish council has clearly expressed its support for the scheme, including the provision of a replacement community hall which it admits it could not otherwise afford to fund."

The project will build 33 new homes, 12 of which will be affordable, on grassland to the west of the village.

The existing community hall will be replaced with the new building, which will offer parking and disabled access.

Mr Gibbard added: "Members felt that approving the plans would not only support the district's housing need but also local villagers, who would benefit from purpose-built community facilities."

Conditions of development include sufficient trees and hedgerows to be planted and a contribution to be made by developers to fund two new bus stops.

The applicants – Property Group and Mr and Mrs Townsend – have a year to submit a more detailed application and if approved are required to start work within one year.

Pothole priority is for the busy roads

Cuts in maintenance have left the council unable to repair all damaged areas

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MOTORISTS and cyclists will continue to face bone-shaking journeys on the county's roads following a near £3 million cut in the road maintenance budget.

Oxfordshire's transport boss Councillor David Nimmo Smith said there had been a big increase in the number of potholes repaired by the county council this winter.

But he admits there is simply not the money to bring the county's roads up to scratch.

Mr Nimmo Smith said: "We will still be fixing potholes but we will have to continue to prioritise to ensure the busier routes are dealt with.

"That does mean, unfortunately, we will not be able to deal with as many potholes as we would like to."

The latest figures from the county council showed it fixed 9,580 potholes between November 2014 - January 2015 compared with 6,793 the same period the year before.

But Mr Nimmo Smith has also

admitted the £2.9m cut in the road maintenance budget for 2015/16 would put pressure on the service.

He said: "We're not ducking the issue. We have been saying for some time that we need £160m to bring all our roads up to the standard people expect but we haven't got that money and we're unlikely to get that money. 'We have a lot less than that and, though not quite a rear-guard action, we have to prioritise to keep the roads as best we can."

Mr Nimmo Smith explained that an £87m pot of cash awarded to the county in December 2014 would be spent on improving roads as well as fixing potholes over the next six years.

He said: "Some of that will go into capital projects, such as major reconstruction work on roads and some into the maintenance budget.

"It gets to a stage where you need to do something more substantial, like the sort of thing we are doing on London Road at the moment, where we are replacing the carriageway."

The *Banbury Cake* reported last September that resurfacing all of the county's roads would only happen once every 255 years with the funding available. Yesterday the county council said the estimation was the same.

Mr Nimmo Smith said: "Last



A section of crumbling road by a busy bust stop in the town

winter and the one before that we were going out gritting every night for about six weeks but this year we haven't had to do that."

Simon Hunt, chairman of cycle campaign group CycloX, said that bad road conditions were a constant problem, which were not helped by the budget cuts.

DONATE COST OF A CUPPA' TEA
KATHARINE House Hospice, which cares for people with life-threatening illnesses, has launched its Care for a Cuppa campaign. Fundraisers are needed to host tea parties and donate their profits to help raise cash for the hospice between now and Sunday. Last year, the first Care for a Cuppa campaign raised £14,000. Visit khh.org.uk

VOTING REGISTRATION LETTER
HOUSEHOLDS across Cherwell will receive letters to let each resident know if they are individually registered to vote or not.

Last year the Government changed the registration process for voting and made each individual voter responsible for registering their own details before the general election in May.

PRIORITY SERVICE IS ON OFFER
PEOPLE who rely on medical equipment in their day-to-day lives are being encouraged to apply for a priority service in the event of power cuts. Residents who rely on machines such as ventilators or for those left vulnerable in a power cut, such as someone who is visually impaired, can apply. The public can apply to their provider, see ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServices.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ASSESSMENT
RESIDENTS are being sought to inspect NHS sites by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. It wants volunteers to take part in Patient Led Assessments of the Care Environment. They are not open to people who have worked for the trust in the last two years. Contact Fiona Parsons on fiona.parsons@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk or 01865 902073 or 07557 495258.

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Lots will be sold at health charity event

A TELEVISION personality will host a special fundraiser to support people with mental health problems across the county.

Auctioneer Charlie Ross, who has featured on BBC shows *Bargain Hunt* and *Flog It*, will host an auction for mental health charity Restore.

Visitors to tomorrow's event at Banbury United Football Club will be joined by MP Sir Tony Baldry and the Mayor of Banbury, Sean Woodcock.

Sir Tony said: "This is set to be a fantastic evening rais-

ing money for an extremely worthy cause. Restore is a brilliant charity which helps people who have really suffered with severe mental health problems get well and get jobs."

Items up for grabs range from a signed football from players at Manchester United Football Club to the complete works of *Inspector Morse* signed by author Colin Dexter.

And a live blues band and food buffet will keep visitors entertained.

For more information visit restore.org.uk

Charity seeks helpers

VOLUNTEERS are needed to collect money to pay for nurses for the terminally ill.

Marie Curie needs county people to donate their time to collect for the charity's annual Great Daffodil Appeal this month.

Volunteers would encourage people in the community to give a donation and wear a daffodil pin.

Marie Curie nurses care for people with a terminal illness in their own home so they can spend more time with their families and less

time in hospital.

The charity's community fundraiser for Oxfordshire, Richard Scott, said: "The Great Daffodil Appeal makes it possible for Marie Curie nurses to provide free hands-on care for people with a terminal illness.

"We need as many people as possible to donate their time to help us make sure everyone is wearing a daffodil pin, so we can continue providing this vital care."

Call 0117 942 7132 or visit mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil

Customers' delight as newsagent reopens as post office after major revamp

A NEWSAGENT has been relaunched as a post office and convenience store after refurbishment.

Bloxham post office and store at High Street, Bloxham, was primarily a newsagent before, with a separate Post Office counter.

Now it has been updated with investment from Post Office Ltd and postmaster Suresh Kamar.

A new Post Office terminal sits at beside the retail till, freeing more space in the shop and allowing longer post office opening hours.

This also allows the post office to stay open for the same hours as the shop, 7am to 8pm from Monday to Saturday and 7.30am to 4pm on Sunday.

It will be open for an extra 39 hours and 30 minutes every week.

Customers can renew card tax, send funds abroad using Moneygram, pay bills, get insurance and top up mobile phones at the new terminal, as well as use the mail service.

Mr Kamar said: "I am very proud of my new-look post office and convenience store. 'Wow' is the reaction of customers when they walk through the door. I am looking forward to serving existing customers and new ones."

Councillor Kieron Mallon, a



Kieron Mallon cuts the ribbon with Rajula Kamar, left, and postmaster Suresh Kamar

regular customer, attended an official opening ceremony at the store on Friday. He said: "It is a major

transformation. I was delighted to officially open the post office.

"It looks light, bright, modern and

airy. The community will benefit from the changes made, including the much longer opening hours."

Chances to uncover child sex abuse were 'missed'

Damning review of Bullfinch scandal reveals catalogue of failings by organisations

COUNTLESS opportunities to uncover the grooming of children were missed by Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police, a damning report into the Bullfinch scandal revealed this week.

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board released its Serious Case Review into the Bullfinch scandal, exposing a catalogue of failings by both organisations, the health services and schools.

The 114-page report said authorities ignored or missed warning signs and failed to understand how grooming gangs worked until 2011.

The report, by Alan Bedford and released on Tuesday, said that if police officers and social workers did have suspicions, systems were so weak that senior managers who could have realised there was a widespread problem were never told.

The report was released almost two years after seven men were jailed for a minimum of 95 years for the grooming, abuse, rape and prostitution of six girls.

Mr Bedford said in his report one of the key problems was that child sexual exploitation – the organised targeting, grooming and abuse of vulnerable underage girls by older men – was not understood by authorities in Oxfordshire at the time.

Mr Bedford wrote: "The language used by professionals was one which saw the girls as the source, not the victims of their extreme behaviour and they received much less sympathy as a result."

As well as the six victims – one of whom was just 11 when she was first abused – there have been another 367 Oxfordshire youngsters identified by the county council's social services team as being abused or in danger of being groomed.

The failings of the authorities – which also include education and the health services – was summed up by Mr Bedford: "In the most simplified of summaries, a combination of not grasping the extent of ex-

ploitation, the focus on the girls and their families as the source of the problems, the corresponding lack of focus on perpetrator, and a host of administrative and management issues all worked together to lead to child sexual exploitation being identified later than it might have been."

But, despite the failings, Mr Bedford wrote: "The Serious Case Review has seen no evidence of wilful professional neglect or misconduct by organisations, but there was at times a worrying lack of curiosity and follow through, and much work should have been considerably different and better."

At the time Oxfordshire did not spend as much on child social care as other authorities, ranking 132nd out of 150 authorities nationally and with the 10th lowest number of social workers in the country.

Thames Valley Police has referred itself to the Independent Police Complaints Commission over the report's findings.

No one at Oxfordshire County Council or Thames Valley Police

has been disciplined. In a statement, Thames Valley Police once again apologised to the victims and their families, saying: "We have examined what went wrong and we are doing all that we can to put things right. We are ashamed of the shortcomings identified in this report and we are determined to do all we can to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again."

Jim Leivers, Oxfordshire County Council's director for children, education and families, said: "Like the whole community we are horrified at what happened in Oxford."

"We fully accept that we made many mistakes and missed opportunities to stop the abuse. We are totally committed to tackling this abuse and the county council has already implemented all the recommendations for improvement, which the report acknowledges."

Launch of affordable homes scheme

TWO new affordable housing schemes in Banbury and Chertsey have been launched by Cherwell District Council.

Across the two sites there are 76 homes available to residents with a household income of less than £60,000 who have an existing connection to the district.

Cherwell District Council's housing chief, Debbie Pickford, said: "It is important to us that residents who have been born

and raised in the district have the opportunity to remain here when they are older.

"However, we appreciate that buying or renting a home, especially for the first time, can be expensive. That is why, when planning permission is granted for any major development, it is a requirement that at least 30 per cent of those homes are designated as affordable.

"We are delighted that the de-

velopment of these sites will give those residents in need of a bit of help the opportunity to either get that first all-important foot on the property ladder or the chance to rent a home they both want and can afford."

There are 65 affordable homes in Longford Park, Banbury, with some available to move in now. At least half of these are for residents with a connection with Bodicote.

Most pupils get preferred school

OXON: Almost 91 per cent of primary school leavers in Oxfordshire will go to their first-preference secondary school.

Oxfordshire County Council sent responses to the county's parents telling them whether their child had been accepted to their first-choice school.

In total, 6,351 pupils got their first choice and nearly 98 per cent of children got into one of their "preferred" choices.

But about two per cent of children are facing going to a school they did not choose.

Education chief Melinda Tilley said: "The county council has consistently had a strong record of ensuring a high percentage of children can attend their first-preference secondary school."

"Despite an increase in the number of applications received for September 2015, it's once again good news for the vast majority of families."

"Inevitably, where applications for particular schools exceed available spaces, we can't offer everyone a place."

Parents who have not applied for either a primary or secondary school place for their child for September 2015 should fill out a form available on the council's website as soon as possible.

Explore concert

BANBURY: Readers and musicians will provide an evening of travel-themed entertainment on Saturday, March 21, in aid of the Samaritans.

Poetic Licence, a North Oxfordshire-based group of seven readers, a soprano soloist and a pianist, will give a performance called Travelling Light at the Marlborough Road Methodist Church, from 7.30pm.

Original material performed on the night will address themes of travel, exploration and adventure.

Tickets cost £8 in advance and are available from RP Lovatt Insurance in George Street, Banbury. For information call 01295 264181.

French market

BANBURY: A French and continental food market will return to Banbury on Friday, March 13.

Stalls featuring French charcuterie, fine cheeses, Viennese pastries, homemade jams and more will pitch up at Cornhill, Market Place, from 9am to 5pm. The market visited three times in 2014.

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Rethink on council chief

Decision to axe executive role is to be reconsidered after leader admits mistake

Matt Oliver
molver@nqo.com

THE decision to axe the top job at Oxfordshire County Council will be reviewed after its leader admitted he rushed it through.

Council leader Ian Hudspeth said he would be apologising to the council after it was revealed the decision to scrap the chief executive role was not valid.

The move to make Joanna Simons redundant was recently voted through by the Conservative-Independent Alliance during a heated full council meeting.

It would have made the post redundant by June and granted chief executive Joanna Simons a redundancy package amounting to almost £600,000.

But county council Conservative leader Mr Hudspeth admitted that after receiving further legal advice the decision was now under review.

Mr Hudspeth said: "I have acted in haste and I accept full responsibility for this."

"The review will be a full one that looks at the impact of removing [Ms Simons'] post and be led by my deputy leader Rodney Rose.

"Given that it was a very close vote at the council meeting and



Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth



Oxfordshire County Council chief executive Joanna Simons

lots of concerns have been raised, I want to now work with the opposition."

He said the decision was called into question when the Labour Party threatened to mount a judicial review.

The changes would not affect this year's budget, he said, and chief executive Ms Simons had agreed to

stay in her position. A decision on whether the position will still be made redundant will now be the subject of a cross-party review.

Mr Hudspeth said it would then be scrutinised by a committee before returning to cabinet so it could be considered by full council again.

Labour leader Liz Brighouse - who had called for the decision to be de-

layed - said her party had been "totally vindicated". She revealed they had been prepared to mount a judicial review of the move but had withdrawn that threat after meeting with Mr Hudspeth.

She said: "This proposal should never have made it to full council and responsibility for that lies with the leader."

Cleaning team to look after spaces in the community

PARKS, cemeteries and open spaces in Banbury will be looked after by Cherwell District Council's cleansing team from April, in a move aimed at improving efficiency and value for money.

An existing contract between Banbury Town Council and Continental Landscapes is due to end in March.

After this the district council team, which already carries out street cleansing in Banbury, will take over all other duties.

These will range from emptying bins, litter picking, clearing away fly-tipping and removing graffiti.

The contract also allows for extra help clearing snow in parks and cemeteries, should the town council need it when bad weather hits.

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said: "The new arrangement means all cleansing will be done by one specific contractor.

"When we looked at the competition, CDC's in-house team clearly provided the best deal financially.

"They have the tools to do the job and are based in Banbury.

"It was an obvious choice."

The new arrangement is worth £120,000 a year, according to Banbury Town Council.

A town council spokesman said that the same work under the old contract would have cost just short of £170,000.

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A fascinating journey re-tracing events of WW1
Departs 15 May & 9 October 2015

A century on from 'the war to end all wars', visit some of the conflict's most important sites and witness the haunting 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate.

Price includes

- Return coach travel and Channel crossings
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast accommodation in the Lille area
- Sightseeing in the Somme and Ypres Salient
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- Visit to Menin Gate
- The services of a Tour Manager

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Springtime Gardens & Dutch Bulbfields

From Tilbury on board MS Marco Polo
Departs March 2015

Head to colourful Amsterdam for a chance to visit Holland's famous bulb fields, medieval gem Bruges from Zeebrugge, and then take in two sun-kissed Channel Isles and pretty Honfleur, gateway to the Normandy countryside.

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*Applies to bookings made by 28 February 2015. Offer subject to availability & may be withdrawn at any time. Price shown is the new reduced fare.

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From Tilbury on MS Marco Polo
Departs 3 May, 29 August 2015

Stornoway, in the Outer Hebrides island of Lewis, pretty Tobermory on Mull and the exquisite Scilly Isles are amongst the highlights of these hugely popular voyages that also include rugged Kirkwall, Irish capital Dublin, Norman Honfleur and a Channel Isle.

Price includes

- Nine nights' full board on *Marco Polo* based on two people sharing a twin cabin
- First-class on-board entertainment
- Ports of Call: Kirkwall, Stornoway, Tobermory, Dublin, St Mary's (Isles of Scilly), St Peter Port (Guernsey), Honfleur (Normandy)
- Excellent service from an attentive crew

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Find out which firms triumph at business awards at gala dinner

OXFORDSHIRE Business Awards organisers are hoping for a record year for entries in 2015 as the inaugural retail category attracts solid interest.

Business leaders are counting the entries to the 14 categories following last week's closing date.

Awards chairman Paul Lowe said that fewer than 200 tickets were still available for the gala awards dinner, which is due to be held at the Oxford Thames Four Pillars Hotel, in Sandford, on June 19.

About 500 people are expected to attend. Organisers have already sold out the 100 tickets set aside for early-bird discounts. An additional 200 odd seats have been allocated to sponsors or sold to other parties.

Sponsors of the 2015 Oxfordshire Business Awards will decide on the three finalists for each of the prize categories on May 6.

For full details of the Oxfordshire Business Awards 2015 and entry forms, see oxfordshirebusinessawards.co.uk

Volunteer workshop

YOUNG people across Oxfordshire have been invited to sign up for a free course about volunteering in football.

The Oxfordshire Football Association is hosting its sixth Football Futures Day on Wednesday, April 1.

It will highlight the role young volunteers play in football and will feature workshops focussing on coaching, refereeing and football development.

The event will be held at The Oxford Academy, Sandy Lane West, from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

It comes as the Oxfordshire FA announced nominations are open in its Grassroots Heroes awards for 2014/15.

Nominations are open in five categories, including coach of the year and club welfare officer of the year. They will close on March 27 for online entries and one day earlier for paper entries. A judging panel will review the nominations and select winners.

County development manager Andy Earshaw: "These awards are a fantastic way to celebrate our volunteers, clubs and leagues."

Anybody interested in attending the Football Futures Day should visit oxfordshirefa.com or email james.shiplee@oxfordshirefa.com.

To find out more about the volunteer awards, call Mr Shiplee on 01993 894403.

Time for jobs fair

JOBSEEKERS will hope Friday the 13th is not unlucky at Cherwell District Council's first job fair of 2015.

Around 45 organisations will have stalls on the day at the town hall. Visitors can speak directly to employers about vacancies, and also get advice on apprenticeships, volunteering and training schemes. Work sectors represented will range from office work, catering and hospitality to the emergency services.

For information call 01295 221863 or email info@banburyjobclub.com

Fundraiser delayed

A FUNDRAISING auction in aid of mental health charity Restore has been postponed.

Community fundraiser Hannah Feldman said due to "unforeseen circumstances" the event had been put back and will take place at a later date to be confirmed.

Television auctioneer Charlie Ross, who has featured on BBC shows *Bargain Hunt* and *Flog It*, was due to host the fundraiser at Banbury United Football Club on March 6.

Restore, based in Manzil Way, Oxford, supports people across the county with its recovery and coaching services.

0

More carers needed in face of 'crisis' for elderly

Report says 750 extra staff will have to be recruited to cope over the next decade

Alex Regan
aregan@nqo.com

AN extra 7,500 carers will be needed in Oxfordshire over the next decade to combat a so-called care "crisis."

An Oxfordshire County Council report said at least 750 extra care workers were needed in the county every year for the next 10 to "keep pace with the growing numbers of people requiring care".

This is in addition to the 14,000 carers in the county currently working in care homes and the community.

But according to Laura Price of the Oxfordshire joint health overview and scrutiny committee, Oxfordshire is already at "crisis point" when it comes to caring for the elderly.

Oxfordshire County Council is reviewing the way it provides care to the elderly, and hopes to increase the number of carers who visit older and infirm people at home, rather than sending people to care homes.

The number of people over 65 in Oxfordshire is expected to rise from an expected 122,000 in 2016 to 151,000 by 2026.

Bill Buckingham, 94, has received home care partially paid for by the council after breaking his hip two years ago.

He said: "It's deplorable to me that some older people aren't getting the care that they deserve.

"I'm very lucky because as well as a carer I have neighbours who help me when I want to get out of the house. I guess more care workers will be needed."

Mr Buckingham's home carer, 24-year-old Nicola Edwards, has been working as a carer for 18 months.

She said: "We do need more carers in the county because there are a lot of patients out there."

Oxfordshire County Council said the figure quoted in its report was the "potential" unmet need for care workers in the county.

In the most recent budget cuts, the county council announced that the budget for older care would be reduced by £750,000 between 2015 and 2016.

Ms Price added: "The problem is that the Government are moving the responsibility from one cash-strapped institution [the NHS] to another cash-strapped institution [Oxfordshire County Council]."



Bill Buckingham, who is 94, with his carer Nicola Edwards



Bearing gifts for the residents of Green Pastures

Special treats cheer the elderly

YOUNG people from Sanctuary Supported Living brought a smile to the faces of residents at a Banbury nursing home.

The group, from the Banbury Foyer and Rachel House, delivered handmade chocolates, gift boxes and cards to older people at Green Pastures Christian Nursing Home, The Hawthorns. Mia Stevens, a young parent from Rachel House, said: "It was great seeing their faces light up."

Lib Dem candidate is selected

COUNTY councillor John Howson has been chosen as the Liberal Democrat candidate for Banbury in the General Election.

Mr Howson joined the Liberal Party in 1966 and this will be his 12th general election, and second as a candidate after standing for Reading East in 2005.

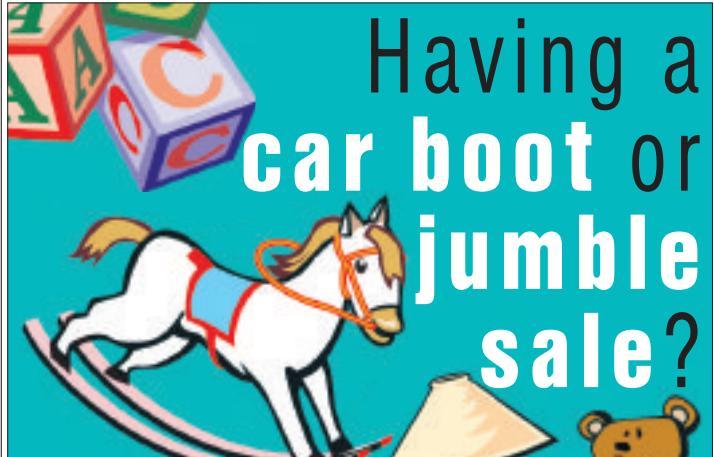
He has lived in Oxfordshire since 1979, became a county councillor in 2013 after retiring from work in London, and is currently CEO of Oxford Teacher Services, which offers free web-based recruitment advertising to schools.

He said: "I am delighted to have been asked to fight Banbury."

He added the retirement of Tony Baldry MP would make this year's election "a much more open and interesting contest than in previous years".

Mr Howson was previously a teacher and in 1977 he was stabbed in his classroom by an ex-pupil.

He has also been a university lecturer, civil servant, government adviser and businessman. For 11 years he wrote a weekly column on education statistics.



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Charming characters and pithy one-liners make a hit

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
(PG, 122 mins)

TOWARDS the end of *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, a secret inspector is asked for an honest assessment of Jaipur's luxury development for residents in their golden years.

The inspector concludes that behind the scenes, management of the hotel is shambolic but unerring affection for the staff makes it a four-star destination for "the elderly and beautiful".

The same honest appraisal applies to John Madden's entertaining sequel: Ol Parker's script is haphazard and several plot strands are flimsy but our emotional investment in the characters papers over the cracks.

Audiences who check in to this second chapter will be treated to the same pungent Jaipur backdrops and good-humoured service, with a fresh lick of dramatic paint courtesy of new arrivals, played with easy-going charm by Tamsin Greig and Richard Gere.

The dashing star of *American Gigolo* and *Pretty Woman* takes on sex symbol status here, causing groom-to-be Sonny (Dev Patel) to quip, "The man is so handsome, he has me urgently questioning my own sexuality."

At 65 years old, Gere evidently still has it.

While the first film was lovingly adapted from Deborah Moggach's novel *These Foolish Things*, *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* tumbles straight out of the scriptwriter Parker's imagination.

He struggles to provide each resident with a compelling narrative arc: some are surplus to requirements while others relish the trials and tribulations that test fledgling romances and fractious friendships to breaking point.

Sonny and business partner Muriel (Maggie Smith) travel abroad to seek investment for a second hotel from business chief Ty Burley (David Strathairn) and return to India, mindful that funding is dependent on a review from a secret inspector.

"How was America?" asks Evelyn (Judi Dench), welcoming them home.



Judi Dench, as Evelyn Greenslade, in *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*



A scene from *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* with Celia Imrie, Ronald Pickup, Diana Hardcastle, Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Bill Nighy

"It made death more tempting," retorts Muriel.

English traveller Lavinia (Greig) and American novelist Guy (Gere) arrive soon after and Sonny is convinced that Guy must be the inspector so he ignores Lavinia and lavishes attention on the writer.

Guy's arrival sends Madge (Celia Imrie) into a swoon – "Lordy lord, have mercy on my ovaries!" she swoons – while Douglas (Bill Nighy) struggles to communicate his feelings to Evelyn.

Meanwhile, Sonny is pre-occupied with his impending nuptials to Sunaina (Tina Desai) and a simmering rivalry for his fiancée's affections from snake-hipped family friend Kush (Shazad Latif).

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel delivers the same winning formula of laughter and tears, eliciting strong performances.

The course of true love, even in twilight years, never runs smooth and Parker composes variations on a theme of amour while peppering his script with pithy one-liners.

Madden's film is certainly a gift: you get everything you expect but nothing more.

CakeWhat's on

Theatre

New Theatre Oxford, George Street, Oxford:

Motown's Greatest Hits – How Sweet It Is. 7.30pm. Featuring The Formations, who will recreate the sounds of legendary artists such as Lionel Richie, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, The Jackson Five, The Isley Brothers and Edwin. £26.90 (plus £2.85 transaction fee). 0844 8713020.

Ruskin College, Dunstan Road, Headington:

Freedom from Torture: Women Crossing Borders. Noon. As part of the 2015 Oxford International Women's Festival supporters of Freedom From Torture's Write to Life group present Jade Amoli-Jackson (Ugandan) and Soraya Mohammadi (Iranian) reading from their work, about settling here as refugees seeking asylum. They also bring humour and insight

to life as a refugee and asylum seeker in Britain. £8 (£7 concessions). 07855 495898.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Politics of Love. 7.45pm. Award-winning quest to understand and find love, fusing dance and theatre with the spoken word. See: oldfirestation.org.uk/event/politics-of-love-2/. £10. 08465 305305.

MONDAY

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Awake. 7pm. Exploring the findings of the largest ever study of awareness during anaesthesia through music, poetry and discussion and challenging the concept of consciousness. Features medical and research experts, poet Ruth Padel and composer Michael Zev Gordon, who have created a musical work based on patient experiences of awareness under anaesthesia. Free.

TUESDAY

New Theatre Oxford, George

Street, Oxford: The Australian Pink Floyd Show. 7pm. A true homage to Wish You Were Here. Tickets £32.40-£44.40 (plus £2.85 transaction fee). 08448 713020.

MUSIC

FRIDAY

Steve Ashall: General Foods S&S club, Spiceball Park, Banbury. Bringing you a mixture of covers from the past 60 years. 9pm. 01295 252852.

SATURDAY

Banbury Soul Club: Banbury Trades and Labour Club, West Bar Street (use side entrance by car park). Banbury's very own DJs Charlie Mc, Steve Milsom and Tom Howard will be playing Northern Soul, Motown, R&B and Modern. Plus Guest DJs Dave Greet and Peter Higson. Music is all played on original vinyl records. Great atmosphere and friendly crowd is always guaranteed. 8pm. £5. 07943 793417.

CakeSport

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Jack Westbrook fired Banbury ahead at Arlesey on Saturday

Banbury pegged back by Arlesey

Struggling United draw after leading 2-0

BANBURY United were on course for a vital victory in their battle against relegation from the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division, when they led fellow-strugglers Arlesey Town 2-0 at half-time on Saturday.

But the visitors were unable to hang on to the lead given to them by Jack Westbrook and Carl Tappin, and were forced to settle for a point.

The Puritans took the lead in the eighth minute.

Jordan Green's shot was

tipped behind by Arlesey keeper Nick Thompson and from Hicham Abdellah's corner, Westbrook fired home via a post.

The visitors doubled their lead in the 25th minute.

Kynan Isaac's long cross from the left found Abdellah, who put in an excellent low cross for Tappin to net from close in.

Arlesey started the second half strongly.

In the 51st minute, after a

substitute Geoff Mitchell pulled a goal back with a shot from the edge of the area.

Banbury went close when Abdellah let fly from a narrow angle, but Thompson tipped the ball over the bar.

The last ten minutes saw Arlesey push forward in search of an equaliser.

This duly arrived four minutes from time, when some poor defending from Banbury allowed Martell Powell to slot the ball home from six yards.

Arlesey Tn 34 8 4 22 34 69 28
Banbury Utd 33 5 8 20 36 75 23
* pts deducted # Hereford record expunged

LATEST TABLE

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION									
	31	22	5	4	62	18	71	66	69
Corby Tn	34	21	6	7	66	32	69	62	67
Weymouth	34	21	4	9	62	52	64	56	56
Hungerford	36	18	10	8	52	29	64	59	59
Truro City	35	20	4	11	65	50	64	57	57
St Neots Tn	35	17	10	8	65	49	61	56	56
Cirencester Tn	35	17	9	9	66	39	60	59	59
Redditch Utd	33	16	8	9	61	35	56	53	53
Chesham Utd	35	14	11	10	66	51	53	51	51
Hitchin	34	14	6	6	63	58	51	51	51
Paulton Rov	34	14	8	7	72	27	50	50	50
Dulverton Tn	36	14	8	7	77	58	47	47	47
Chippingham Tn	35	12	10	13	40	44	46	44	46
Bideford	34	13	5	16	56	73	44	44	44
Slough Tn	33	11	10	12	48	58	43	43	43
Dorchester Tn	35	11	4	20	52	63	37	37	37
Cambridge City	31	8	11	12	48	50	35	35	35
Biggleswade Tn	33	8	10	15	47	60	34	34	34
Histon	32	8	7	7	23	55	31	31	31
Frome Tn	34	8	6	20	40	69	30	30	30
Arlesey Tn	34	8	4	22	34	69	28	28	28
Banbury Utd	33	5	8	20	36	75	23	23	23

* pts deducted # Hereford record expunged

STARS with Claire Petulengro



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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Others want to change you but, at the end of the day, we are what we think Aries, so try not to be hard on yourself. You're making big plans and self confidence is the key to you making the most of what this week's exciting line up can place before you. Love and hate were close together, but by Friday it's one or the other. Ring now so I can give you a full reading.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

You're on the edge of making some really big decisions about your life, but you're listening to advice from those who's own lives sometimes look unattractive to you. Your self image is given a boost on Thursday and you decide to aim higher and maybe even do something you wouldn't usually dare dream of by the weekend! Ring now to hear why I want you to take chances.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

You're back in the saddle and to build your confidence with a feeling stand up for you're safe and to build your confidence with a feeling that you are giving up your right to have a choice. Those who are worth having in your life will respect you far more for it in the long run, I can assure you. Give me a ring now to hear why it's worth facebooking or calling round old friends.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

You have to believe in your dreams before you start to work on making them happen, or you will give others the impression that you're not really up to the job. Be careful you don't run up unnecessary debts this week, especially by paying for others who would not do the same in return for you. Give me a call to make this the week you finally get your personal affairs in order.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Do you think you act differently when a certain person is around? If you do, is this because you like being around them, or because you feel uncomfortable? Only you can answer this question with honesty, but your fear seems to be allowing your emotions to be worn on your sleeve again. This time it's different. Ring now so I can explain to you why this is.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Are you setting yourself up for a fall, or can you afford to trust in those who have affected your heart so dramatically in recent days and weeks? Only one way to find out. Virgo, jump. This is what life was invented for! You've been living in the past and it's time to come back to the present. Ring to hear why friends have your best interests at heart and who else you should be trusting this month.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You're going to be asked to do something you don't feel comfortable with, but ask yourself Libra, if this is just something you are frightened to do? Evolve with the experiences life offers you. You've come too far this year to start to walk backwards now, don't you think my friend? Conversations on Thursday will confirm this fact. Ring now so I can show you how much you're capable of.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You don't get what you don't think about, so try to allow your mind to open up and think. You've closed yourself off recently for fear of upsetting those you love, but the only person you upset was yourself. Now faces you meet this weekend help you discover a more fun and youthful side to your character which puts the laughter back in your life. Ring now to hear how Saturn brings a financial solution.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Far from the bad news, Sagittarius, you're going to be asked to open a few more truths to those who aren't willing to listen to sense and reason from others. A new attraction beckons from Thursday. Just make sure you keep a nice slow pace please Sagittarius. Remember what happened last time you rushed things? Ring to hear who's back to renegotiate a new year drama you had.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You're more interested in a healthier lifestyle and bad choices no longer appeal to you. Keep your feet on the ground this week, or someone is going to try to steal your thunder and glory. A friend was a favour they're playing down but which may actually involve more of your time and money and they're at first willing to admit. Ring me right now to hear why it's a great week to start a new job.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Younger faces could well be the source of much trouble and gossip and you're going to have to be careful that you don't end up being roped into promises you have no intention of keeping. This is a really good week to mend broken relationships which have been of killer since Christmas, so take full advantage. Ring me right now to hear why this is the beginning of interesting overseas links.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

Last month, you did not have the faith to keep on going, but you've learned that your mind can indeed amaze your body. Phone calls you make and receive this week will prove that. Watch out for a new face who, although compatible, may not be as free or as innocent as they at first claim. Take your time, there's no reason not to. Ring to hear why this is such a great year for new plans.

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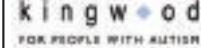
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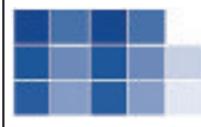
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CakeMotoring

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Skoda's first city car is a real treat

By David Duffy
david.duffy@nqo.com

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Auto facts

Skoda Citigo Elegance 3dr ASG

Price: £10,695

Insurance group: 2E

Fuel (combined): 62.8mpg

Top speed: 106mph

Length: 356.3cm/140.3in

Width: 164.1cm/64.6in

Luggage capacity: 8.8 cu ft

Fuel tank: 7.7 gallons/35 litres

CO₂ emissions: 105g/km

Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles



Skoda Citigo won praise from in the annual Green Apple Awards

tronic stability control fitted to all SE, Elegance and Sport models, and the entire range has been given a EuroNCAP Five Star rating.

But more importantly, the car is great to drive.

The little car got off to a flying start when it was launched in 2012, by being awarded Car of the Year by Auto Express.

And recently Skoda added another trophy when the Citigo won the supermini category of the Green Apple Awards, judged by members of the Midland Group of Motoring Writers.

Family Business LOWER ARNCOTT Established 1972 CAR SALES

2009 09	SEAT IBIZA ECOMOTIVE TDI 1400CC DIESEL. METALLIC GREY. 3Door. Superb small economical hatchback. NIL road tax. 2 owners from new. Good service record. Aircon. PAS Remote central locking. 2 Keys. Electric windows. Fantastic fuel economy. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. Vehicle has recently had a new cambelt fitted. HPI Clear.....	£4,950
2007 07	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME. 3 Doors. Dark blue..Local car. 2 Owners. Approximately ONLY 36000 recorded miles. Alloys. PAS. Electric windows. Central locking. Radio/CD. Sold with a full service a new MOT and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£3,750
2007 07	FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE. 5 Door. Blue. 2 owners from new. Local car. PAS. Radio/CD. Alloys. Remote central locking. Electric windows. Etc. Nice condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£2,995
2006 55	FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE. 5 Door. Mauve. One local lady owner from new. Lovely condition. Aircon. PAS. Remote central locking. Electric windows and mirrors. Alloys. Radio/CD. Etc. Full service history. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£2,995
2001 51	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 AUTOMATIC. 5 door. Silver. Local car. Central locking. Electric windows. PAS. Radio/CD. Very tidy for it's year. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,550
2004 04	FIAT PANDA 1.2 ELEGANZA. 5 doors. Blue. Great little car. Central locking. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Radio/CD. Very roomy and economical small hatchback. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,450
2001 51	NISSAN MICRA 1.0 VIBE. 5 doors. Metallic Blue. PAS. Radio/CD. Local car. Very tidy throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,050
1997 P	TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 ST COUPE. Turquoise Blue. Exceptional Condition, PAS, Alloys, Central Locking. Electric Windows, Sun Roof, Local Car, HPI Clear.....	£995
1995 N	NISSAN MICRA 1.3 AUTOMATIC. Green. MOT until June 2015. Very noisy gearbox but works OK....	£525

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News in brief

RENAULT has unveiled the big brother to the Captur compact crossover. The Kadjar is a size up from the Captur and will be a direct rival for the Nissan Qashqai. Two-wheel drive with diesel engines will almost certainly be the most popular combination in the UK, but advanced petrol choices and four-wheel drive options will also be made available. Motorists will first be able to get up close with the car at the Geneva Motor Show in March, before it goes on sale in the summer. The first UK deliveries may not be until September this year, though.

HYUNDAI'S new high-technology premium saloon, the Genesis, will be available in the UK from April, priced at £47,995. Available in limited numbers, the firm's new flagship model will be sold exclusively via selected dealerships nationwide. Available in the UK in a single high-specification trim, the Genesis is said to offer a unique opportunity to own the most refined and technologically advanced Hyundai ever made available in Europe.

Silverstone classic news

Historic cars revving up for race day

TWO evocative new races for much-loved British GT and saloon cars from the 1950s and 1960s have been added to this summer's massive Silverstone Classic line-up, held on July 24-26.

Moreover, featuring grids packed with famous British-marques ranging from Aston Martin to Wolseley, these two special showdowns will be staged under the illustrious "Battle of Britain" banner.

The pair of 20-minute races will be notable highlights in the non-stop entertainment on both Saturday and Sunday and – commemorating the 75th anniversary of the 1940 air battle –

they will be accompanied by alluring aerial displays by Spitfires and other Second World War aircraft.

Confirmation of this exciting new initiative for British-made GT and Touring cars manufactured between the start of 1947 and the end of 1965, completes the most comprehensive line-up of on-track action yet seen at the record-breaking Silverstone Classic.

With 22 races, this year's 25th anniversary event will showcase more soul-stirring motor sport history than ever before.

Nick Wigley, event director, said: "You only have to look at all the fabulous displays put on by car

clubs at the Classic to know that the 1950s and 1960s were glory days for the British motor industry with brands such as Mini, MG and TR very much to the fore.

"Now we will have lots of these wonderful icons competing against each other in what are going to be hugely exciting, patriotic and crowd-pleasing encounters."

Full details of how to purchase tickets (which must be bought in advance) for the event at the iconic racecourse – as well as hospitality packages and weekend festival camping – can be found by visiting the official silverstoneclassic.com website.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.[#]

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